

Info Lit Tutorial For Kids – Fleshed Out.

5/7/01

[Characters talk to each other: Joey: Wow Jaimy, that's a great pet! How did you get your parents to let you have it? Jaimy: Oh I had to do research on it so I could tell what pet would be the best for me and my family to have. First I had to know what I wanted...]

I. What do I need to do?

A. What do I need to find out? The big question. *[Jaimy: I needed to know what would be the best pet for my family]*

B. What essential questions do I need to ask to answer the big question? *[Joey: Yeah, but how did you actually figure out what to look for? There's nothing out there that says what pet is best for You. Jaimy: I had to think of all the essential questions that would help me decide.]*

Has the teacher given me questions? *[Joey: Oh yeah, that sounds just like what my teacher told me to do for class]*

If Not:

What are the essential questions to be answered? *[Jaimy: There were a lot of little questions that I needed to ask in order to answer the big question. I did it by brainstorming...]*

Brainstorming

Sitting around and thinking of ideas. When you brainstorm you put every thing you can think of out. There are no wrong answers when you brainstorm. When you brainstorm for this assignment you should think of all the questions you think you might want to answer or might want to know about your *[How big is it? How much does it eat? What does it eat? How much does the food cost? How loud is it? Does it need a special house? How much space does it need? Does it like cold or hot? Wet or dry?]*

Classifying or grouping

In this step, you should take all the questions you thought up when you brainstormed and put them into groups. Come up with one question that describes that whole group. These are your essential questions *[Group one: How much does it*

eat? What does it eat? How much does the food cost? Group two: Does it need a special house? How much space does it need? Does it like cold or hot? Wet or dry? Group three: How loud is it? How big is it?]

Narrowing

From your essential questions above, determine which three to five questions will help you start your research. *[What does it eat? Does it like cold or hot? Wet or dry? How much space does it need? How big is it?]*

- B. How will I record (keep up with, write) my information? *[Boy that's a lot of stuff to keep track of. How did you remember everything once you start looking?]*

My teacher will tell me how to keep the information

OR

I can choose. *[characters explain why they chose the one they chose - Jaimy: I chose the datasheet, but there are a lot of different ways and you can choose one that works best for your question.]*

Journal, Notecards, Datasheet, Clustering

There are many ways to organize your information.

Some will work better than others depending on what you want to know.

NOTE CARDS [\[link to sample filled in\]](#) [\[link to blank printable sheet\]](#)

Note Cards are smaller pieces of paper that you can write facts on. Don't forget the author, title, date, and pages [\[hyperlink to sample of bibliographic information\]](#) for where you found the fact.

DATASHEET [\[link to sample filled in\]](#) [\[link to blank printable sheet\]](#)

This is very similar to the notecards. Be sure to fill in information on the sheet.

CLUSTERING [\[link to sample filled in\]](#) [\[link to blank printable sheet\]](#)

Write the original idea in the center. Think of other ideas around that first idea. They might sound a lot like your essential questions

JOURNAL [\[link to sample filled in\]](#) [\[link to blank printable sheet\]](#)

As you search for information, you can write everything down in your journal. Write the date down. Also write the information that will allow you to find the article or book or information again. Don't forget the author, title, date, and pages.

II. How do I do it?

A. What are my key words.

Key words are the important words in your questions. When you think of your keywords, don't forget to think of other similar words that describe what you want but are not in your questions. [alligator, Siamese cat, boa constrictor, koala, food, eat, wet, water, size, big, small]

Use this to write down your keywords [link to printable sheet words and other words like them]

B. What do I use to find my answers?

Encyclopedias are a great place to start your search. They give basic information on your topic. [link to what ever we have - Worldbook, Encyclopedia of Animals]

Dictionaries tell you what a word means. They might be helpful when you are thinking of your keywords

Nonfiction Books are books that have true information.

Articles are found in magazines or newspapers. They are usually shorter and more specific than books. They can give both information and opinions. [link to Searchasaurus - <http://search.epnet.com/login?custid=s4995918&group=kidssas>]

External Websites are pages on the internet that provide free information and opinions. [link to KidsClick - <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/> , Yahoooligans - <http://www.yahoooligans.com/>]

C. Is my source any good?

You have to think about whether your source provides good information. Sources, both paper and internet, sometimes provide bad information. You should think about these things when you evaluate your source.

Who wrote it? Who was responsible for it?

Why did they write it? Was it a fact or opinion?

When was it written? Is the date appropriate for what you need?

D. How do I find the information in the source?

You can use the index in the source to help you find the location of the information about your keywords.

You can also scan for keywords in the text.

When you find the keywords, read the information around it.

Does that information answer your questions?

If it does, write it down.

How do I write down my information?

Think of how you decided to record your information earlier.

Write it down according to that. [link back to that step]

How do I share my information?

Has the teacher told me how?

IF NOT:

What is the best way to show what I've learned. I could use spoken, written, pictures (could be paper or electronic)
[examples]

How do I tell others where I got my information.

Bibliography .

A bibliography is a list of sources that were used to answer your question. Use the journal or however you recorded your information to help you create your bibliography.

III. How did I do?

Now we want to look back to see what we did, what we learned and what we might do differently the next time.

A. Did I follow my plan?

Did I answer the big question?
Did I answer the essential questions?
Did I record my information and sources?

B. Did I present my information in the way the teacher assigned?
A rubric is a list criteria for evaluation. Your teacher told you what your rubric was. It will be the same for everyone in the class. Did I do the assignment to give me a high score according to the rubric?

C. Did I learn something?
D. What did others think?
E. When I research again, what will I do differently and the same?
F. Am I a better researcher?